



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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## DIVISION OF OIL, GAS & MINING TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

**Date :** July 20, 2000

**DOGM Staff:** Robert Davidson, Susan White (Inspector), Wayne Western

**Others:** Chris Hansen, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC. Dan Guy, Blackhawk Engineering

**RE:** Gordon Creek #2, #7, #8 Mine, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC , ACT/007/016, Internal File

### Purpose:

Monthly inspection to assess further:

- coal refuse exposure in the main channel below Jacob's pond at #2 Mine
- AOC and slope angles at #7 Mine portal area.

### Background:

Susan White reported in her June 23, 2000, inspection report that coal waste had appeared in several locations along the reclaimed main channel below Jacob's pond at the #2 Mine ( See Figure 1, page 3) in several areas. Susan White requested an on-site visit by the technical staff from the Division to determine if any action should be taken concerning the coal waste exposure.

The Mine Reclamation Plan, Section 3.4.4, Preservation of Soil Resources and Projected Impacts of Mining on Soil Resources, No. 2 Mine Area, Gordon Creek No. 2 Mine - Topsoil Substitute for Reclamation, page 3-15, states that all coal contaminated material (>50% coal fines) will be removed. Visual identification and inspection will be used to identify coal contaminated materials and will include color, texture or smell. All contaminated materials will be excavated to a depth of at least 6" below and beyond any apparent source of contamination. Removed materials will be buried on-site at a minimum depth of 4 feet.

### Observations:

#2 Mine: The main channel below Jacob's pond has several pockets of exposed coal and coal waste material that contain greater than 50% coal fines. These include two exposed pockets in the lower channel and one pocket in the upper channel immediately below Jacob's pond. The two lower pockets are principally on the north side of the channel and measure approximately 16


feet by 12 feet each. The upper pocket encompasses both sides of the channel and is more extensive than the lower pockets. The UTM coordinates for those pockets are 12S 0494141 4393539 and 12S 0494013 and 4393493.

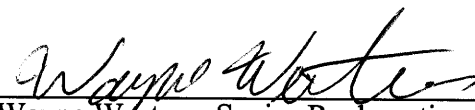
#7 Mine: The reclaimed slopes below the cutslopes were measured to be 23°, which is the angle show on Plate3-8A. The Division also looked at the general backfilling and grading and found the work was adequate to meet the requirements for Phase I bond release. The reclaimed topography blends into the existing topography as well as possible and the site seems stable. The only concern the Division has with the backfilling and grading that has been done is the exposed coal waste. Since the material is small, the Division does not consider the small patches a problem. Should more coal waste be exposed the Division will reevaluate the backfilling and grading findings.

#### **Recommendations/Conclusions:**

#2 Mine: If no further exposure of coal material occurs, the three exposed pockets of coal do not significantly impact reclamation of the #2 Mine main channel. However, if exposure continues to expose coal, then remedial action needs to occur to assess the extent of the coal contamination and to remove the coal contaminated material from the main channel and to bury the material beneath four feet of clean fill.

#7 Mine: The Division found that the field conditions are consistent with the certified as-built drawing. The Division recommends that the permittee proceed with their request for Phase I bond release.

Signature:  on July 25, 2000  
Robert Davidson, Senior Reclamation Specialist

Signature:  on July 25, 2000  
Wayne Western, Senior Reclamation Specialist

Signature:  on July 25, 2000  
Susan M. White, Senior Reclamation Specialist

( PHOTOGRAPHS )



**Figure 1.** Main channel below Jacob's pond, Gordon Creek #2 Mine. Looking down the channel towards at the mid to lower end of the reclaimed site.